

important that when you say you're going to do it that you go ahead and do it, for the sake of peace. And we did. But as importantly, 25 million people were liberated in Afghanistan. It's fantastic to think about that.

I've had a lot of friends go over to Afghanistan, and Karen Hughes was there early on after the liberation, and she went again. And Laura has been over. And they say that the change is noticeable. Life is coming back, and people are excited.

I'll tell you a great American story. My barber was raised in Afghanistan. And she came over here to—there was a revolution or civil war or whatever you want to call it, and she decided to stay in America, raised her three kids here, and used her great talents and enthusiasm for her country to raise money to build two schools. Think about that. What kind of a country is it where you got a barber to the President working hard, using her influence and her contacts and her friends to raise money—quite a bit of money, by the way—to build schools in a faraway country, spectacular country that encourages compassion not only at home but abroad. Afghanistan is changing for the better, and as it does, the world will be more peaceful.

Listen, we got rid of Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Saddam Hussein was a threat to peace. Iraq is changing. I'm sure you were amazed, as was much of the world, at the 8½ million people who defied the car bombers and the killers and the suiciders to say as loud as they possibly can, "You will not prevent us from voting and exercising our rights as free citizens." What a spectacular moment in history.

And now we're standing with the Government as they struggle against these suiciders. But they're getting there. And our mission is clear there as well, and that is to train the Iraqis so they can do the fighting, make sure they can stand up to defend their freedoms, which they want to do. And then our troops are coming home with the honor they earned. And the world will be better off with a free Iraq and a free Afghanistan in the broader Middle East.

Ukraine had a freedom revolution. Lebanon is now having a freedom revolution. Listen, freedom is on the march. And the role of the United States of America is to stand with freedom lovers and reformers and

believers in the power of democracy. And when we do so and as we do so, we'll leave a foundation of peace behind for our children and grandchildren.

We're living in a fantastic period in world history. And I want to thank Jim Talent for understanding the great opportunities America has to leave the world a better place for generations coming up.

Again, I want to thank you for supporting this good man. He's—like we used to say in Texas, when you find a good one, keep him. You got a great Senator in Jim Talent. I thank you for recognizing his talents. I thank you for contributing to his campaign. I thank you for talking up his good work in the coffee shops all around the State of Missouri. You don't have to worry about him; he'll be out right behind you, working hard to make sure that in this reelection campaign—the citizens of this State do the right thing.

It's an honor to be your President. I'd like to stay a little longer, but I'm headed to Crawford. I appreciate your warm reception. God bless you, and God bless our great country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. at the Millennium Hotel St. Louis. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Matt Blunt and Lt. Gov. Peter D. Kinder of Missouri; Karen Hughes, former Counselor to the President; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China

June 2, 2005

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), I hereby certify that the export to the People's Republic of China of the following items is not detrimental to the United States space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

1. Three kilograms of Hydroxyl Terminated Polybutadiene resin, for the Shaanxi Hengtong Intelligent Machine Company, Limited, located in Xian, People's Republic of China, to be used for a research and development effort to produce a photo-curable resin for stereolithography equipment;
2. One combined thermal chamber and vibration test system, for the Yongji Electric Machine Factory, located in Yongji, People's Republic of China, to be used for thermal and vibration testing of locomotive engines;
3. One computer-controlled three-axes filament winding machine, for the Wave Cyber (Shanghai) Company Limited, located in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, to be used for production of small residential and light commercial pressure composite tanks and low pressure fiberglass water softener tanks; and
4. One 40 gallon double planetary vacuum mixer, for the Indium Corporation (Suzhou) Company Limited, located in Suzhou, People's Republic of China, to produce specialty materials for electronics assemblies, including solder paste.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 3.

Proclamation 7909—National Child's Day, 2005

June 3, 2005

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Children are the future of our country and America's next generation of leaders. All of us—parents, families, teachers, mentors, and community members—have a responsibility to children to honor and pass along the values

that sustain a free society. By spending time with a young person, adults can help our Nation's youth to make the right choices. On National Child's Day, we underscore our commitment to supporting children and to helping them realize a bright and hopeful future.

Family is the most important influence in a child's life. Parents are teachers, disciplinarians, advisors, and role models. By providing hope and stability, parents help children to understand the consequences of their actions and to recognize that the decisions they make today can affect the rest of their lives. Through initiatives that promote healthy marriages, responsible fatherhood, and adoption and foster care programs, my Administration is helping to ensure that more young people have a foundation of love and support.

Teachers also make a real difference in children's lives. America's educators help our students build character and acquire the skills and knowledge they need to succeed as adults. My Administration is insisting upon accountability in our public schools. We want every child to have an opportunity to realize the great promise of our country.

By mentoring children and helping them to achieve their dreams, Americans can fill their own lives with greater purpose and help make our country a better place. Our children benefit from a sense of community, and each of us has the power to make a difference in a child's life. I have introduced the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, so that every child can grow up with a caring adult in his or her life—whether that adult is a parent, a teacher, a coach, or a mentor. I encourage all Americans to volunteer their time and talents to benefit our Nation's youth.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 5, 2005, as National Child's Day, and I call upon citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also urge all Americans to dedicate their time and talents toward helping our Nation's young people so that